

Message Text

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ACTION STR-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SP-02 EB-03 EUR-08 IO-03 NSC-05

NSCE-00 INR-05 INRE-00 STRE-00 SSO-00 /043 W

----- 032486

O R 271436Z JUL 76

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1793

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MTN GENEVA 6002

LIMDIS

ACTION STR FOR AMBASSADOR DENT ONLY

EC BRUSSELS FOR MORRIS ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJECT: MTN MINISTERIAL

REF: STATE 184433

1. FOLLOWING IS FOR YOUR RECORD CONFIRMING WALKER - DENT
TELECON.

2. MORRIS CALLED FROM USEC BRUSSELS THIS MORNING INQUIRING
IF HE SHOULD CONTACT SOAMES BEFORE I APPROACHED DG LONG
PURSUANT TO REFTEL. I TOLD HIM TO PLEASE DO SO.

3. MORRIS REPORTED THAT REACTION OF BOTH SOAMES AND GUNDELACH
WAS AS FOLLOWS: THEY WERE UNHAPPY AT THE PROPOSAL TO GO
FORWARD WITH THE LETTER AND BELIEVED IT WAS OUTSIDE THE
SPIRIT OF DISCUSSIONS THAT HAD BEEN CONDUCTED BETWEEN U.S.
AND EC ON MTN MINISTERIAL. THEY WOULD REGRET IT IF U.S.
FELT NEED TO PROCEED UNILATERALLY SINCE THEY HOPED TO
ESTABLISH BASIS FOR PROCEEDING TOGETHER. THEY HAD PRE-
LIMINARILY SOUNDED OUT MEMBER STATES AND FELT THEY FACED AN
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UPHILL BATTLE IN CONVINCING THEM TO GO ALONG WITH MARCH

MINISTERIAL. SOAMES AND GUNDELACH STILL FAVOR THIS SCENARIO BUT ARE CONCERNED THAT UNILATERAL U.S. INITIATIVE COULD COMPLICATE PROCESS OF SECURING MEMBER STATE AGREEMENT. IN PARTICULAR, THEY FELT MENTION OF POSSIBLE EC SUPPORT IN DENT/LONG LETTER COULD IMPEDE ULTIMATE AGREEMENT AND POSSIBLY EVEN BRING ABOUT PRESSURE ON COMMISSION TO REPUDIATE THAT POSITION. SOAMES FELT STRONGLY ENOUGH ABOUT THE MATTER TO SAY HE WOULD BE WILLING TO CALL DENT.

4. DURING DENT/WALKER TELECON IT WAS DECIDED NOT TO PROCEED WITH LETTER TO LONG.

5. PURSUANT TO TELECON I THEN ADVISED MORRIS TO INFORM SOAMES THAT U.S. DID NOT FEEL THAT WE WERE ACTING UNILATERALLY (AFTER ALL GUNDELACH HAD DISCUSSED OUR PROPOSAL WITH THE JAPANESE EVEN BEFORE REPLYING TO US) OR OUTSIDE THE SPIRIT OF OUR DISCUSSIONS. INDEED, WE FELT THE PROPOSED LETTER WAS A VERY FAIR REPRESENTATION OF THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY ON THE MATTER. HOWEVER, THE U.S. IS ANXIOUS TO SECURE EC AGREEMENT TO A JOINT AND COOPERATIVE EFFORT TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING. IN KEEPING WITH THIS DESIRE AND TO ACCOMMODATE THE EC, WE ARE PREPARED TO FOREGO THE LETTER TO LONG AT THE PRESENT TIME, BUT WE HOPE THE EC WILL MOVE FORWARD EXPEDITIOUSLY TO LAY THE NECESSARY GROUNDWORK WITH THE MEMBER STATES FOR AGREEMENT TO A JOINT APPROACH EARLY IN THE FALL. MORRIS AGREED TO PASS THIS ALONG. WALKER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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